



# Norman Hurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN B.A. (HONS), PGCE

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December 2011

### Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

December is upon us: and the end of term is approaching fast. I do hope that you will be able to join us for some of the Christmas events taking place this month:

#### Early Years Festive Fun Day

As I send this letter, the Early Years department will be enjoying Festive Fun Day, when the children share their special traditions for this time of year. There will be food, games, decorations and stories about how different families celebrate the season. It is always a lovely day when we learn more about each other's beliefs and customs and appreciate how special this time of year is for many people.

#### Parents Association Dinner Dance

Thank you to all those parents and staff who have bought tickets for the Dinner Dance on Saturday 3 December. I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday. The event would not have taken place without Mrs Prior and the PA's efforts and I am very grateful for their hard work.

#### Infant Christmas Play

I have seen glimpses of rehearsals for the Christmas play; I think we are in for a treat at the performances next week. There are two opportunities to come: Tuesday 6 December in the afternoon and Wednesday 7 December in the morning. Please do send your seat request slips back to the class teacher. A full dress rehearsal is taking place on Monday 5 December. A professional photographer will be taking photos, which will be available for parents to purchase at the performances.

#### Pantomime Trip to Sleeping Beauty

All the pupils in the junior school along with the staff are off to see Sleeping Beauty at the Broxbourne Civic Centre on Friday 9 December. Details have been sent out to you, along with the expected arrival time and the snack request. I am sure everyone will have a lovely time.

#### Christmas Lunch and the Junior Christmas Party

Mercedes and the kitchen team are preparing a traditional Christmas lunch for us on Tuesday 13 December. The hall will be bedecked with a festive theme, tables will be decorated and pupils and staff will eat together. On that day the juniors (Kindergarten – Year 6) may come to school in party clothes because they have their Christmas Party with a special visit from Santa in the afternoon.

#### Carol Singing at The Spinney

As you know, we look for ways to have a positive involvement in our local community. One of the ways we do this each year is to visit The Spinney, a residential care home for the elderly very close to the school, and entertain the residents with Christmas songs and carols. I am grateful to Mrs Reeve and Mr Sanger for organising the visit once again this year, and to the choir for volunteering to share their singing talents.

### **Carol Service at St Peter's and St Paul's Parish Church**

Please join us for the carol service on Wednesday 14 December at 'the church on the green' at 2.00pm. Year 6 take a lead in this service with a dramatic representation of the Nativity story, a number of pupils will be reading and singing. It is a lovely occasion involving the whole of the Normanhurst family. If your child is in Kindergarten and does not normally come to school on a Wednesday afternoon, you are also welcome to come along to the church to join us in the afternoon. A letter containing details of the arrangements will be sent out by the office next week.

### **Arrangements for the final day of term**

Term finishes on Thursday 15 December at 12 noon. Lessons 1 and 2 will take place as usual, with morning break time following. A final whole school assembly will take place at 11.15am.

**School ends at midday and there is no after school provision on that day.**

### **Short Reports**

Short reports are due for Years 1-10 at the end of term. These will be sent home to you on Friday 15 December. Year 11 have a parents' consultation meeting on 17 January, followed by a full report.

### **GCSE Examinations**

English, History, Languages and Science all have Unit examinations in the January GCSE examination session. Mr Christou will be sending you a copy of the timetable and the pupils will have their own copy of the timetable and arrangements. I hope pupils will find some time to prepare for these papers over the Christmas break from school.

### **Staff News**

We say goodbye to Mrs Anna Grobbelaar at the end of term, after five years as Head of ICT. We will miss her contribution to school life greatly. She has been a dedicated member of staff and has taught every pupil in the senior school. She leaves us to return to South Africa with her husband and son, Henco, with our very best wishes for the future.

I am pleased to welcome Mr Michael Wilson to Normanhurst from January. He will be the new Head of ICT. Many of the senior pupils will have met him before the end of term as is spending several days with us to ensure a smooth handover from Mrs Grobbelaar. He will also be form tutor to 9A.

The Year 11 ASDAN group will be taken by Mrs Huxford from January. She has taught ASDAN courses for a number of years and will ensure that Year 11 are able to complete their course successfully.

### **Pupil News**

#### **Internet Safety**

On Monday 28 November we welcomed the CEOPs team into school to talk to the seniors about being safe on the internet. The talk included very useful information on how to protect one's identity on line as well as advice about the problem of cyber-bullying.

Pupils listened very attentively to the issues and were given practical advice. Parents might also like to visit the associated website which has sections relevant for different age groups: 5-7, 8-10, 11-16. The web address is <http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk>

### **Reminders**

#### **Break time snacks for Juniors**

May I remind you that pupils in the juniors should bring in healthy fruit snacks for morning break not other food items. We would appreciate your support in providing only a healthy snack. If you have any questions about this, please see your child's class teacher. All pupils are encouraged to bring in water to drink through the day in a suitable bottle with a 'sports cap'.

### **Requests for Absence in Term Time**

I received a large number of requests for absence at the end of this term or at the beginning of the Spring Term. Whilst I do fully understand that occasionally it may be necessary to miss school days for family reasons or other unexpected events, I would ask you not to book holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our holiday allowance is generous compared with state schools and it would be good to have children with us for the ends and starts of term.

### **Health and Safety outside the School**

On a number of occasions staff have voiced concern at how pupils are crossing Station Road in order to climb into cars, and how younger children are playing near the kerbside. We take Road Safety seriously in school; in fact we are trying to arrange a visit from the Road Safety Officer next term to talk about the issues. Please can you ensure your children are behaving safely at the end of the school day, once you have collected them.

Would you also avoid double parking, or stopping in the road for your children to get into the car.

### **Parents Association Important News**

The Parents' Association Committee has served the school for a good number of years and they now want to hand over to a new committee. We are holding an important Annual General Meeting in the school hall on Wednesday 18 January 2012 at 7.00pm. We have a new Treasurer and Secretary but we are still looking for a Chair. This could be one person, or the role could be shared between two people.

I would strongly encourage you to come along to that meeting and support the parents who give so generously of their time to the school. Do consider whether you would like to be part of the committee, or indeed, to become the Chair. The meeting will last no longer than an hour.

We will be officially thanking the outgoing committee and formally instating the new committee at the AGM. It is important to have a good representation of staff on the night. The Parents' Association look forward to seeing you there.

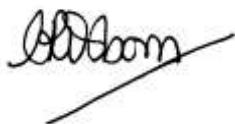
### **Start of Term**

The new term starts on **Thursday 5 January 2012 at 8.40am**

I wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn



**OAK-TREE SCHOOLS** is the group name of:

COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING    OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON    NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD  
ADMINISTRATIVE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA  
SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON)    MRS ANN HAGGER CERT.ED.    MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A.(HONS), M.ED.

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